

that welfare reform is a success, that in the 13 or 14 months since welfare reform has been the law, we've knocked 15 percent of the people off the rolls. Well, of course as we know, a good hunk of that 15 percent are people who were smoked out who really didn't belong on the welfare rolls. Then my guess is the other half of that 15 percent were the cream of the crop, were people that were on the welfare rolls but had recent job experience who had some skills, who were totally and functionally literate.

You go deep within the mix of our 66,000 heads of households here in Philadelphia and you will find people shockingly, and it's the reason why we all agreed that there had to be change, but shockingly who have never worked in their life, who don't have one day's worth of work experience. You will find people, when you go deep into the rolls, who are functionally illiterate. As we all know, the necessary job skills in the moderate economy simply won't accommodate those type of people.

It used to be, not very long ago, ten years ago, you could be a cashier in most retail stores if you could learn to punch one button on the cash register and make change, but now, go into any retail store, small, or large, and you virtually have to run a mini computer to be a retail clerk, to be a cashier.

The necessary job skills are changing so quickly that we are kidding ourselves to think that we can change a system that has been in existence for decades and that simply doesn't work to fit the needs of Welfare-to-Work. For example, let's take child care. We basically have a child care system that is 8:30 to 5:30 because that's been the needs of the working parents, 8:30 to 5:30. But if you look at the jobs wanted in the entry level or the type of jobs our welfare recipients can hold, many of them are for weekend and night work. And there's virtually no child care available in the evenings or weekends in Philadelphia.

Now, let's talk for a second about these suburban growth centers. There are 15 of them and only two are near public transportation, traditional public transportation where someone from Philadelphia can take the subway down to Suburban Station and get on a commuter train and go out and wind up close enough that they can walk to the job centers. Thirteen of them are far enough away that you simply can't get there from here if you don't have a car. And of course, almost none of our current AFDC welfare recipients have vehicles. So not only are we going to spend a chunk of that \$51 million creating van pools and things like that to get our people to suburban job centers, but I heard you, and I know this isn't the main thrust of this hearing, but to not re-enact ISTEA without significant funds in there for Welfare-to-Work transportation programs.

As you know, Senator Specter and Senator Santorum have combined to put an amendment to the ISTEA reorganization bill in the Senate upping those dollars from \$100 million that the Administration has put in their budget, to \$250 million, and I would urge that is an absolutely essential step. If we're serious about what we're trying to do there, and in all due respect, this is not a reflection on Congressman Fattah or any of the Congressmen who are represented here, but if we're serious about trying to get people from welfare to work, we can't do it cheap. We have to spend money for transportation. We have to spend money for child care. We have to spend money for job training. And most of all, we have to spend money to help create jobs whether they be transitional jobs in the public sector whether they'll be subsidizing job growth in the private sector. Whatever it is, we have to touch every element of that, and we better do it fast.

In sum, if we do all of our jobs well, we're going to fail to be able to place well over 50 percent of our current caseload of welfare recipients and that is a pattern that you are going to find is going to happen all over the country. It is a freight train coming down the tracks going to hit us right smack in the forehead.

I would make two long-term recommendations, and I make them with the full knowledge that these may be difficult for you, Congressman, or the Congressmen represented here, may be difficult for us to get enacted, but number one, I would urge legislation to extend the deadline. I think the two-year deadline is just going to prove to be unworkable. We're not going to be ready to have job opportunities, child care, transportation to meet the needs of most of those AFDC families. So I would urge a year or two or three-year extension in the cutoff.

TRIBUTE TO THE NASHUA LIONS CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Nashua Lions Club on their 75th anniversary.

Eighty-one years ago, insurance executive Melvin Jones and his fellow Chicago businessmen formed the Lions International. The group was created to focus on humanitarian acts of service.

Several years later, after Hellen Keller challenged the Lions to become her "Knights of the Blind," William Hillman, Jr., and former Mayor Alvin Lucier established the Nashua Lions Club. Since being chartered in 1923, the Nashua Lions have not only heeded Hellen Keller's call, but have lived up to their motto "We Serve" by making Nashua a better community and improving the lives of those who live there.

After 75 years of hard work and selfless devotion, the Nashua Lions Club have raised and returned over \$750,000 to their community. But the true measure of their impact on Nashua is not in the dollars they have raised, but in the lives they have touched.

Most notably, the Nashua Lions have dedicated substantial time and resources to building projects designed to assist handicapped individuals. Under the leadership of former Mayor Mario J. Vagge, the Nashua Lions built the "Friendship Club" for the handicapped, and under the direction of past President Rich Nadeau, they constructed "Melanie's Room" for a handicapped young girl.

Responding to Hellen Keller's challenge 77 years ago, the Nashua Lions have also worked closely with the Nashua school nurses to provide free eye exams and eye glasses to needy area students. They have spent over \$30,000 in the last 25 years to buy new eye screening machines for Nashua schools.

Aside from their numerous community and charity efforts, the Nashua Lions have also provided leadership to the entire Lions International organization. During their 75-year history, the Nashua Lions proudly have produced two District 44-H Governors, Joseph J. Bielawski from 1983 to 1984, and Edward Lecius this year for their diamond jubilee.

Mr. Speaker, the Nashua Lions exemplify America's charitable spirit. Their leadership,

compassion, and hard work have helped make the Gate City a wonderful place to live. I rise to express my thanks and congratulations for 75 years of caring and devoted service.

THE MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1998

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mandates Information Act of 1998. This bill is similar to H.R. 1010, the Mandates Information Act of 1997, which I introduced on March 11, 1997. The bill is introduced as a follow up to the success we have had with the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

As you are aware, the Unfunded Mandate Relief Act required the Congressional Budget Office to estimate the cost of unfunded mandates a bill would place on both local governments and the private sector. These cost estimates are required to be included in the committee's report which accompanies a bill reported to the House.

The law also established a point of order procedure for bills which contained a mandate on local governments exceeding \$50 million. The Mandates Information Act of 1998 will establish a similar point of order procedure for bills containing a unfunded mandate on the private sector in excess of \$100 million.

The changes reflected in the Mandates Information Act of 1998 have been made at the behest of the Rules Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman with the commitment to move this important piece of legislation forward. I look forward to participating in a hearing on these changes later this week followed by a full and open debate on the bill before the full House in the near future.

DE COLORES MEXICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was witness to a most dazzling and energetic dance ensemble at their inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This Washington, D.C. based dance company has received broad acclaim at major performances including the Presidential Inaugural's "American Journey" at the Smithsonian, and a near sellout concert performance commemorating Mexico's "day of the dead" at the Gunston Community Arts Center Theater.

De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company is unique in the area for its commitment to preserving and presenting the authentic, rich and varied interpretations of Mexican dance, music, and costumes. Their vision is to establish an Instituto de Danza for children and adults in the nation's capital to teach and train a future generation of artists. Performances are intended to foster greater understanding about Mexican art, history and culture. Members receive rigorous training, tutoring and